

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- London Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

June 1987

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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Chief, WSS

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Chief, Comm Ctr

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Chief, MOD

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6 July 1987
MLD-7024

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM : Chief, FBIS London Bureau

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- June 1987

I. GENERAL

1. The end of the month was marked by a turnover in the ranks of bureau management with [] replacing [] as deputy chief on 26 June and [] replacing [] as Chief, PMU on the 30th. STAT
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2. BBCMS implemented one more step in its Reception Department reorganization when [] former Modernization Assistant, assumed duties as Organizer, Soviet Monitoring, effective 10 June. STAT
3. As agreed during the 1987 BBC-FBIS Coordination Meeting, the PMU Arabic monitor on loan to the BBC in the wake of the Gulf Bureau closure was officially returned to FBIS at the end of the month. With this development and the EOD on 6 July of trainee Arabic monitor [] PMU's Arabic section will be at full T/O of three. STAT ✓

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. The bureau editorial staff dealt with an unusually high number of leadership speeches during the month, including four speaking appearances each by Soviet leader Gorbachev and Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi, seven by the Iranian leadership and four by Afghan General Secretary Najibullah.
2. PMU also had a busy month with an average output of 33,470 words daily. Chief, Analysis Group commended the unit for its "magnificent show" in processing the flood of important material coming out of Moscow. Chief, Wire Services Staff also commended PMU for its rapid handling of the 25,000-word text of General Secretary Gorbachev's report to the 25 June session of the CPSU Central Committee from the pressfax version of the 26 June PRAVDA.
3. BBC has protested to TASS over poor service on the English-language service landline. Several major Soviet texts in recent weeks have been transmitted only in fragments, necessitating texting later from the Soviet central press.

4. Chief editor [] assumed responsibility for day-to-day Internet operations effective 8 June.

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B. Communications

1. The dedicated circuit with Washington was disconnected on 1 June for approximately 2 months for upgrading and connection to Reston. The new circuit, after experiencing a few problems, successfully underwent a brief test on 26 June.
2. The Communications Section assisted Austria Bureau 9-29 June by receiving all Vienna traffic over the VCVF for onward relay over Autodin while Austria worked out remaining bugs in its new DTS circuit. Approximately 1,700 messages were handled during this period.

C. Lateral Services

1. At the request of the Public Affairs Office (PAO) in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, PMU filed two interviews with USIA Director Wick to the PAO in Moscow and USIA Headquarters in Washington. The first interview appeared in the 7 June IZVESTIYA and the second in the 9 June SOVETSKAYA KULTURA.
2. After coordination with Milan Unit Chief [], PMU arranged to send the U.S. Embassy in Rome a copy of its West European press selection list to facilitate Embassy requests for PMU processing.

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D. Technical

1. Software for automated production of the XINHUA log has been developed and tested on line. If London Bureau remains the primary backup for XINHUA during outages in Okinawa, Bureau engineers will construct the necessary hardware to make the software operational. ✓
2. A new Wang terminal has been installed in the PMU, bringing the number of terminals on the system to 27.
3. The editorial phone for the computerized Internet orderwire was installed during the month. Final approval for use of the orderwire is still pending.
4. Other engineering developments during the month include modification of the Facit autodin terminal printers to cure a persistent ribbon lift problem and receipt from Panama of two Stelma modems to use as Audodin spares.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. The following London Bureau FBN personnel were presented with

well-deserved promotions during the month: Engineer [redacted] to FBN 10/4; technician [redacted] to FBN 8/1; PMU media analysts [redacted] to FBN 10/3, [redacted] to FBN 10/2 and [redacted] to FBN 10/2; Associate Editors [redacted] to FBN 9/1 and [redacted] to FBN 8/7; and tabulator [redacted] to FBN 8/2.

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2. Incoming deputy chief [redacted] arrived PCS 18 June, PMU Chief [redacted] 22 June and junior editor [redacted] 15 June. Outgoing deputy [redacted] departed PCS 26 June, PMU Chief [redacted] 30 June and junior editor [redacted] 1 July.

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IV. VISITS

To the bureau: [redacted] deputy chief, Administrative Staff, on 9 and 10 June for discussions on a number of FBN issues; [redacted], Office of Information Resources broadcast engineer, on the 24th for talks on technical aspects of bureau television coverage and Internet; and [redacted] Production Group African specialist, for bureau familiarization.

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From the bureau: Teletypist [redacted] to Tel Aviv from 30 June for a 5-week TDY to assist Tel Aviv during a staffing crisis and to train EOD teletypists. The bureau chief briefed ten newly arrived FSO's on FBIS and London Bureau operations at the embassy on 1 July.

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Attachments

cc: Chief, Austria Bureau
Chief, Cologne Unit
Chief, Islamabad Unit
Chief, Okinawa Bureau